

What is claimed is:

1. A method of washing laundry in a washing machine, having a rotatable tub and a detergent reservoir containing detergent, the method comprising:
loading laundry into the tub;
making a monetary payment to the machine corresponding to selected quantity of detergent to be used during a wash cycle of the machine;
starting the machine operation;
automatically transferring the selected quantity of detergent from the reservoir to the tub during the wash cycle of the machine.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the payment is made with coins or currency.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the payment is made with a debit card.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected quantity of detergent is less than the volume of the reservoir.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the detergent is transferred to the tub by pumping.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising making a second monetary payment to the machine corresponding to a selected quantity of a laundry additive to be used during the operation of the machine.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the additive is fabric softener.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the additive is bleach.

9. A washing machine, comprising:
a tub for holding laundry to be washed;
a detergent reservoir for holding detergent;
a control panel to control operation of the machine;
a monetary payment means operatively connected to the control panel to sense a monetary payment to the machine; and
a pump operatively connected to the payment means and to the detergent reservoir to automatically pump a selected quantity of detergent from the reservoir to the tub, the selected quantity corresponding to the monetary payment.

10. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a coin sensor.

11. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a currency sensor.

12. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a debit card reader.

13. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the payment means includes a coin operated switch.

14. The washing machine of claim 9 wherein the reservoir holds sufficient detergent for multiple wash cycles of the machine.

15. The washing machine of claim 9 further comprising an additive reservoir and an additive pump operatively connected to the payment means to automatically transfer a selected quantity of laundry additive to the tub corresponding to a second monetary payment.